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(71) Applicant(s)

Roke Manor Research Limited
(Incorporated in the United Kingdom)
Old Salisbury Lane, ROMSEY, Hampshire,
SO51 0ZN, United Kingdom

(72) Inventor(s)

John Domokos

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service

Derek Allen
Siemens Shared Services Limited,
Intellectual Property Department,
Siemens House, Oldbury, BRACKNELL,
Berkshire, RG12 8FZ, United Kingdom

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Other:

(54) Abstract Title

An adaptive RF polynomial predistorter IC for a feedforward power amplifier in a base station

(57) An RF IC compensates for envelope frequency and/or carrier frequency dependence of third-order intermodulation products. Frequency dependence compensation reduces peak error power and thereby increases the efficiency of the error amplifier in a feedforward power amplifier arrangement. The predistorter may be arranged to provide third-order and fifth-order compensation terms (figure 14) or may be arranged to provide two third-order compensation terms acting with an equaliser delay line 1502 to counteract memory effect in the power amplifier. Predistorters respectively counteracting envelope frequency effects and carrier frequency effects may be cascaded (figure 16).

FIG 15

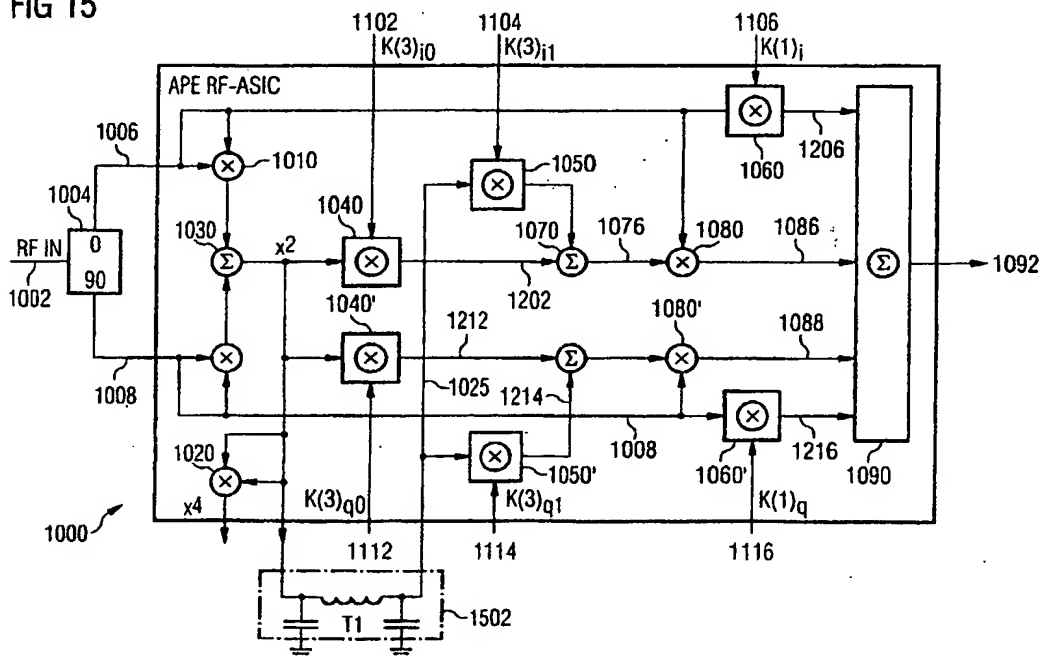


FIG 1

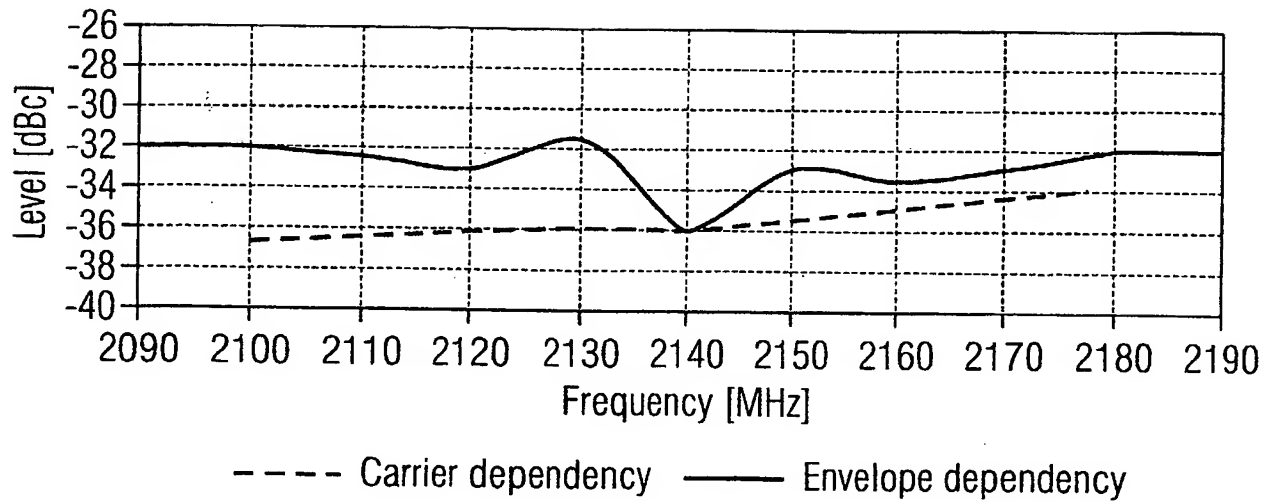


FIG 2

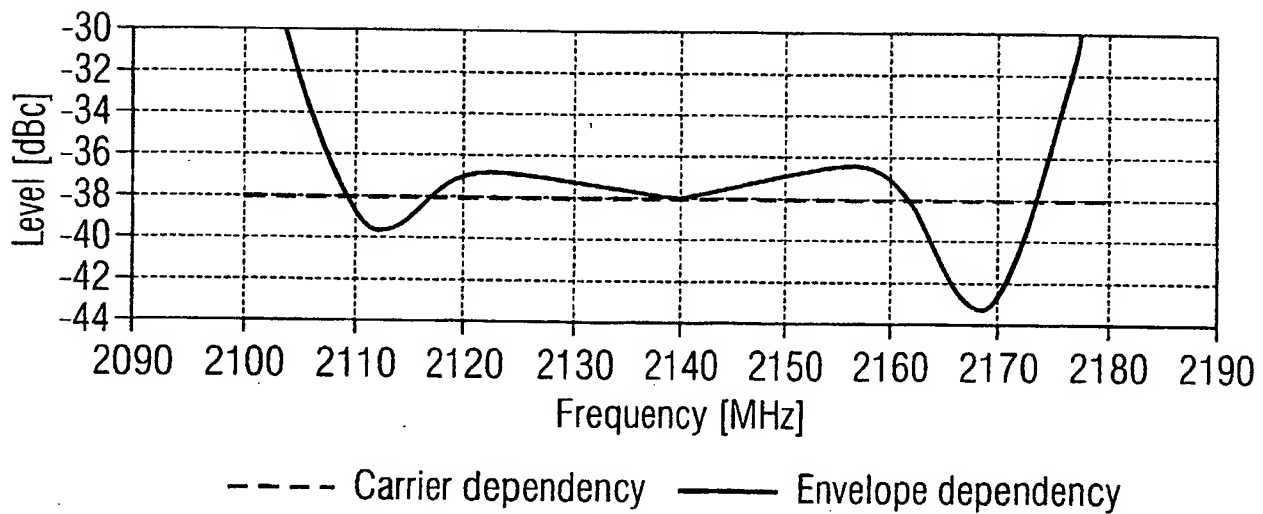


FIG 3

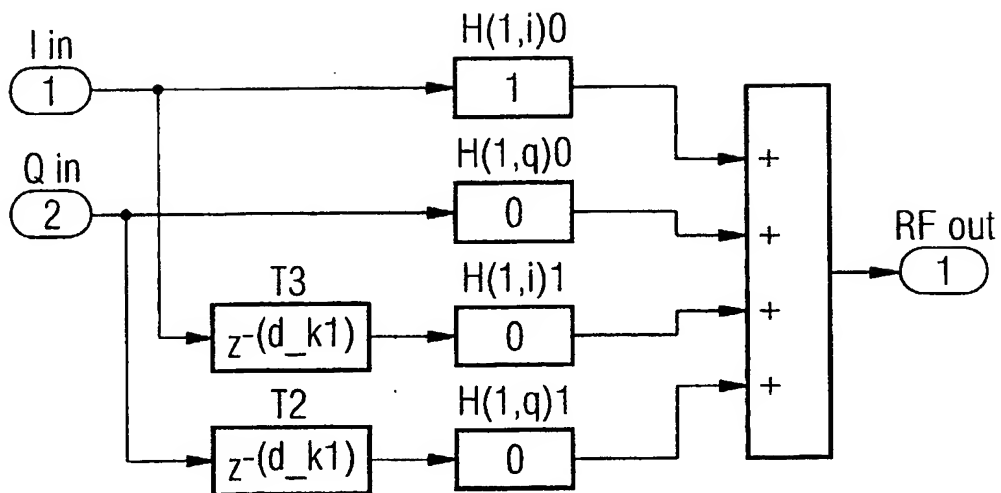


FIG 4

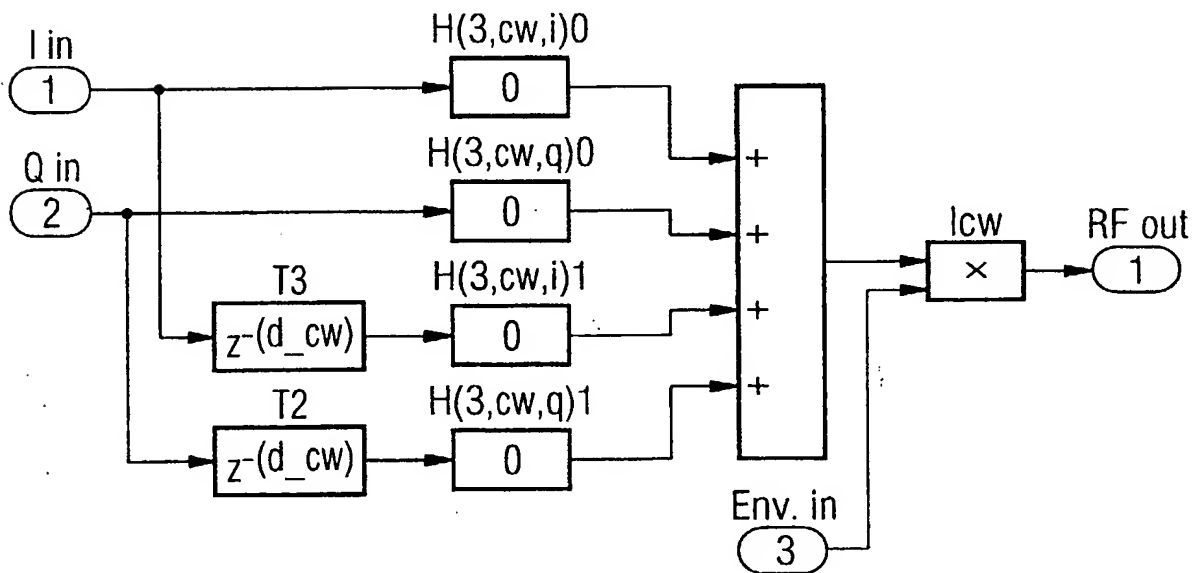


FIG 5

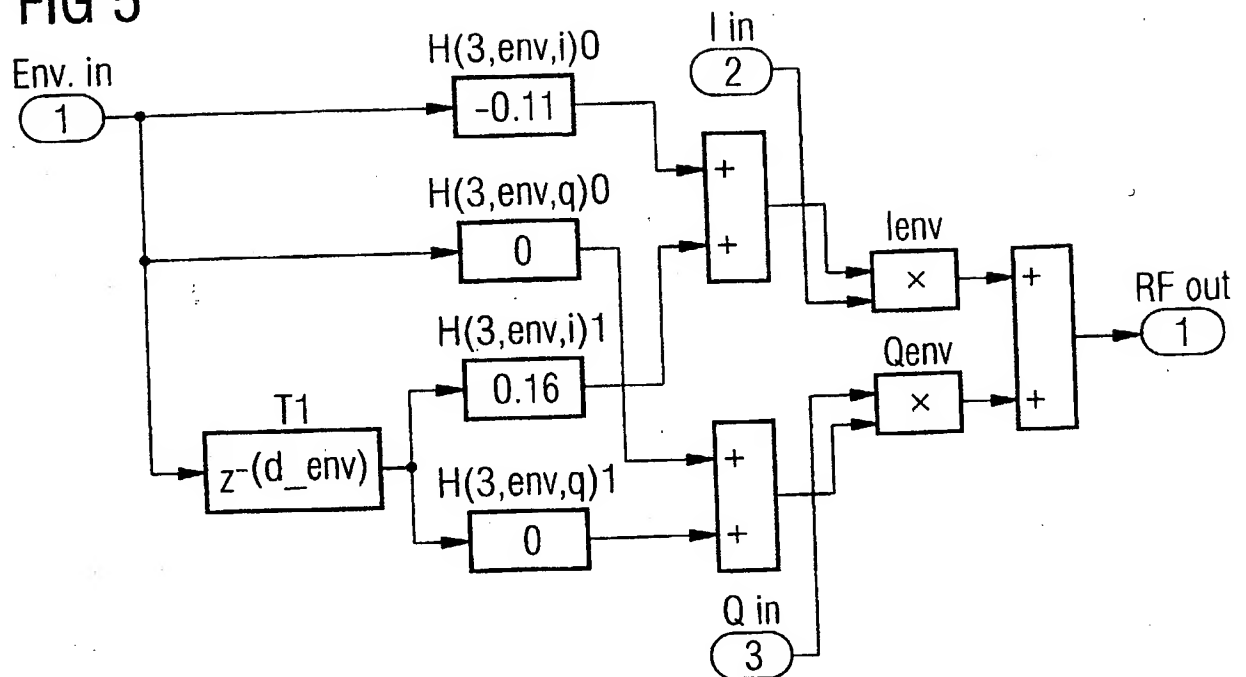


FIG 6

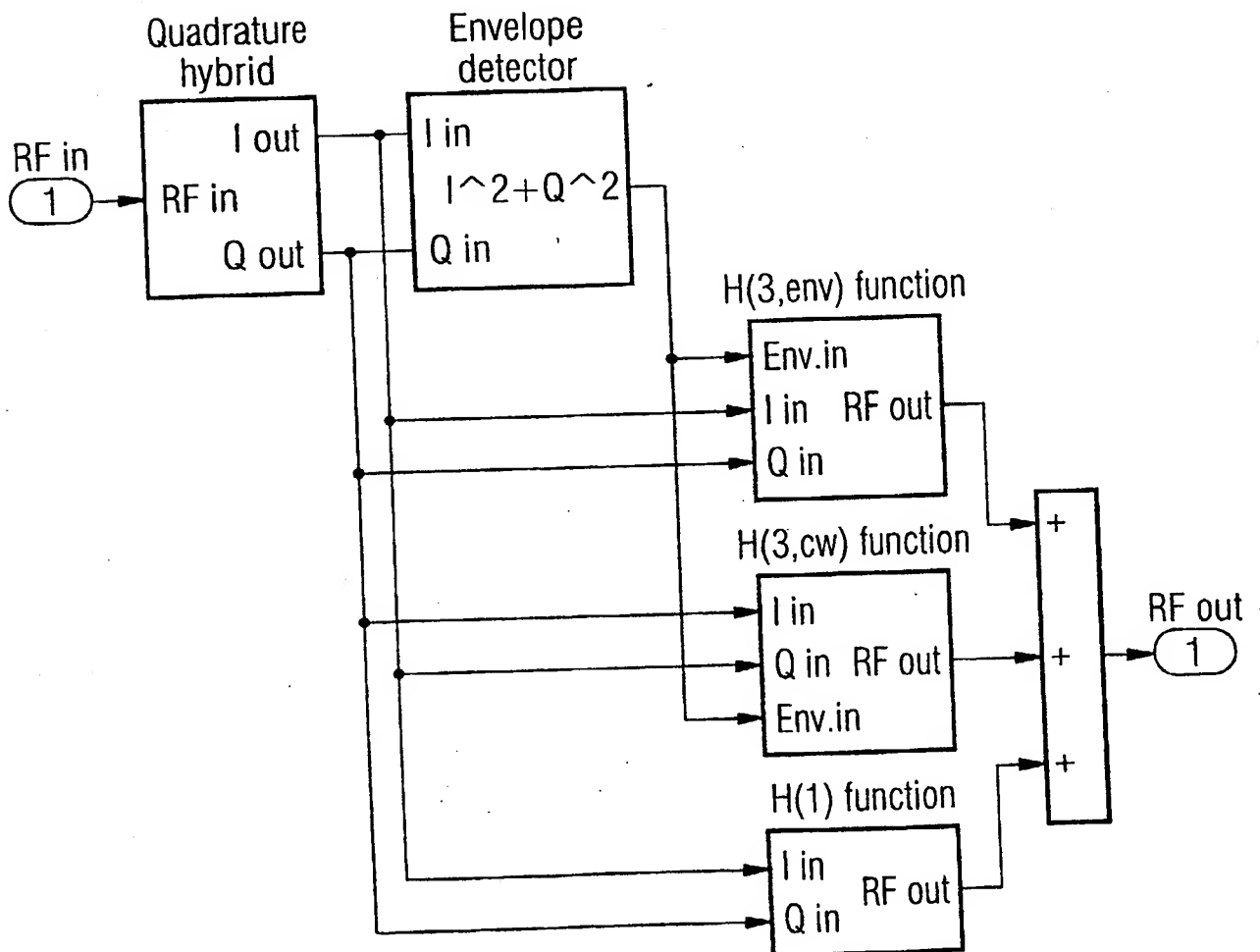
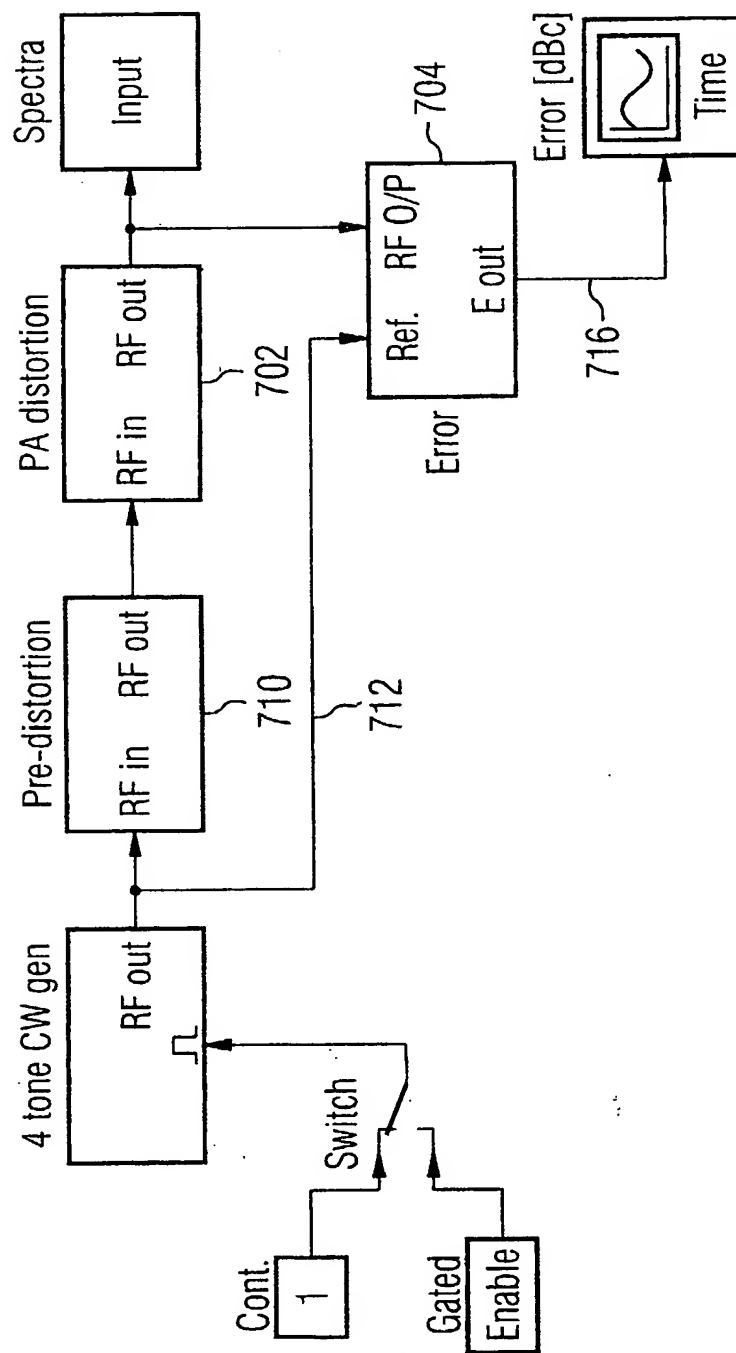


FIG 7



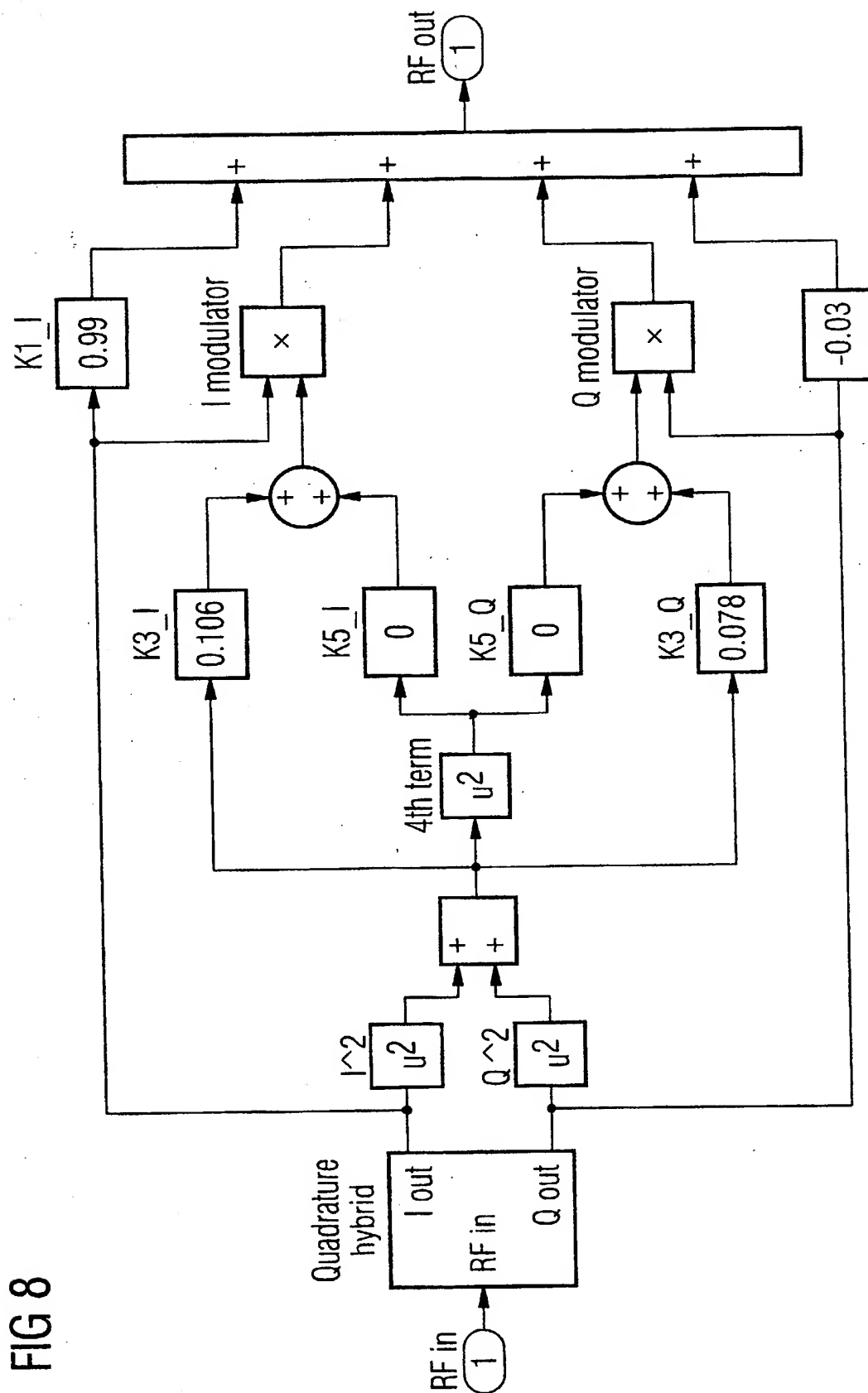


FIG 8

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FIG 9

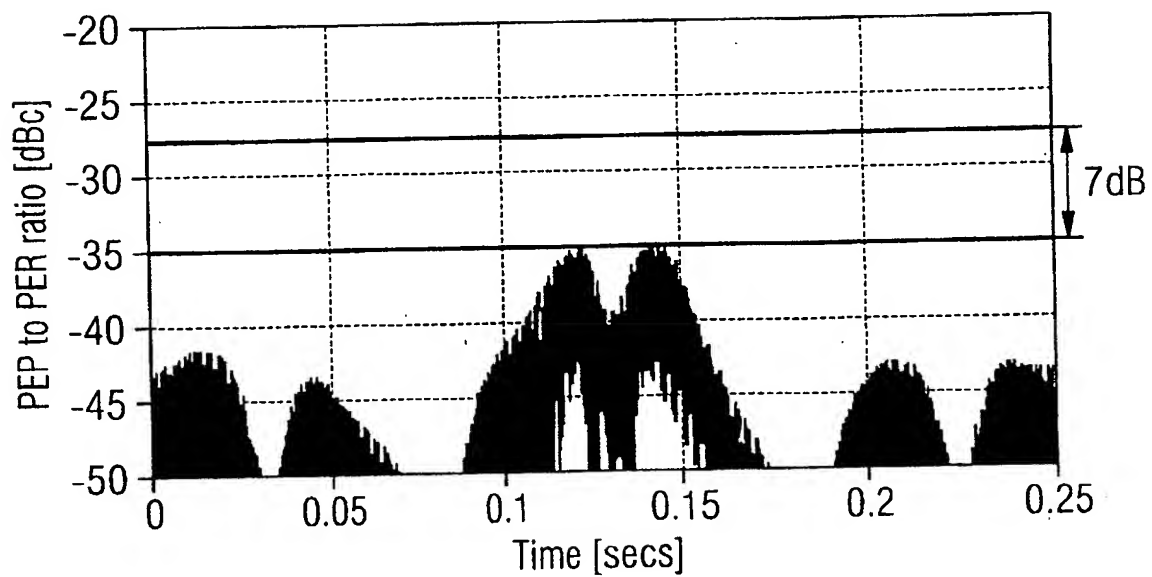
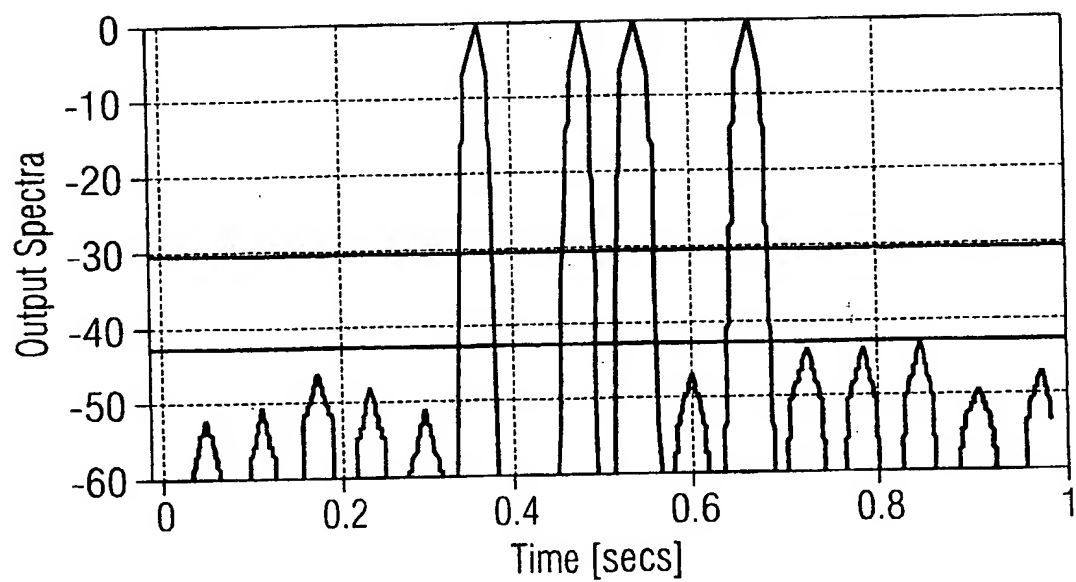
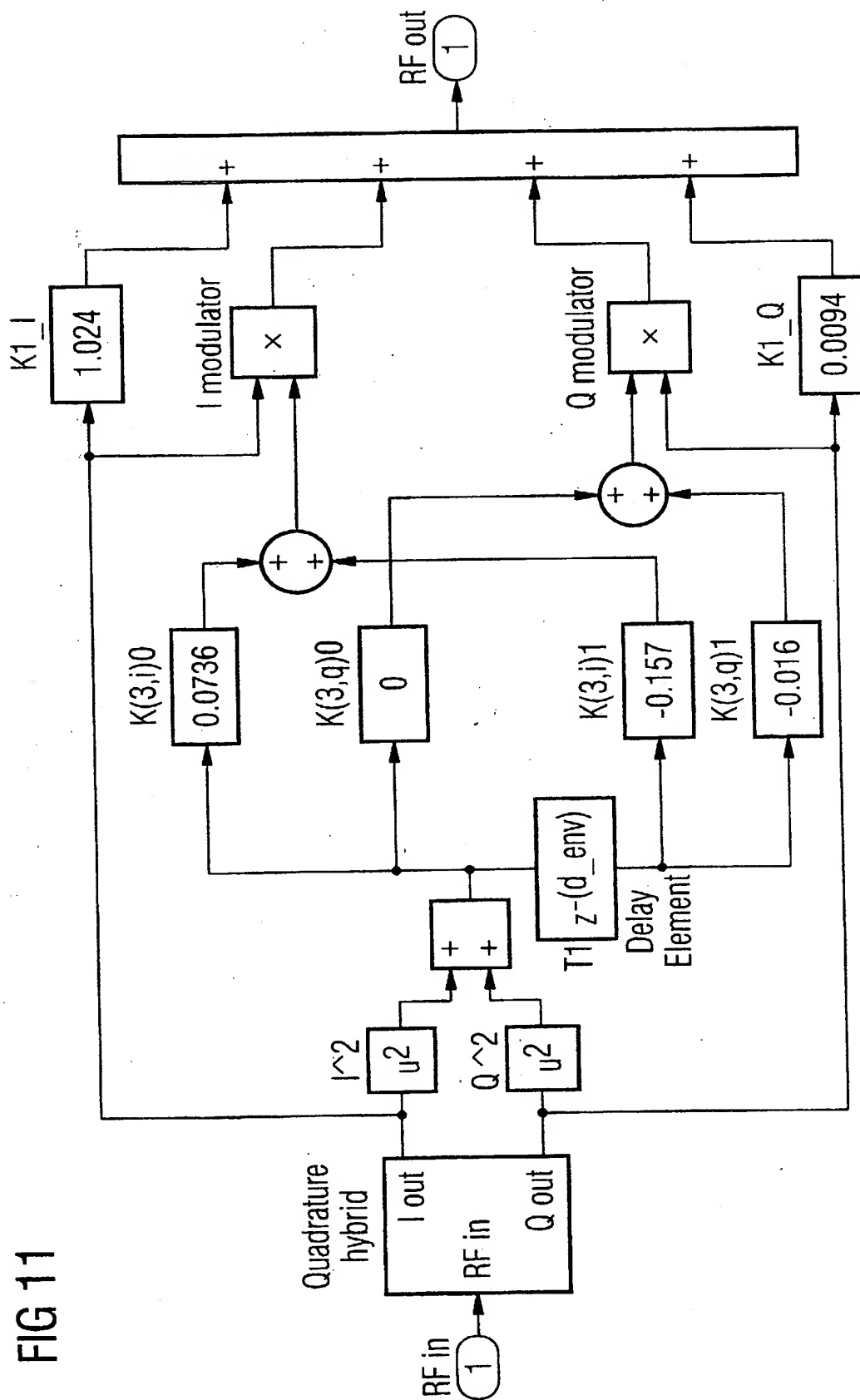


FIG 10





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FIG 12

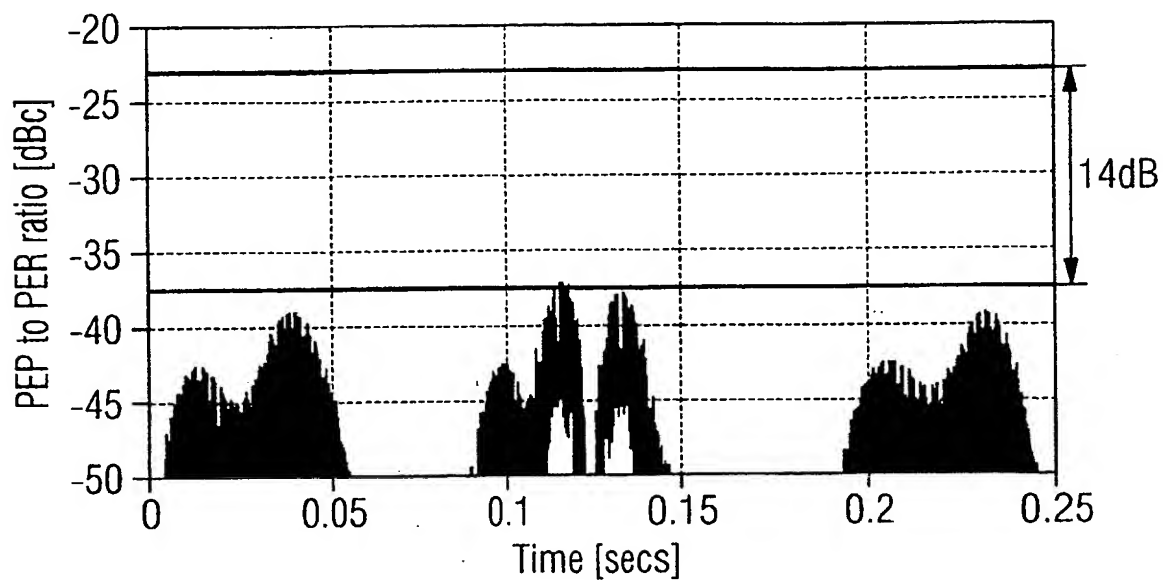
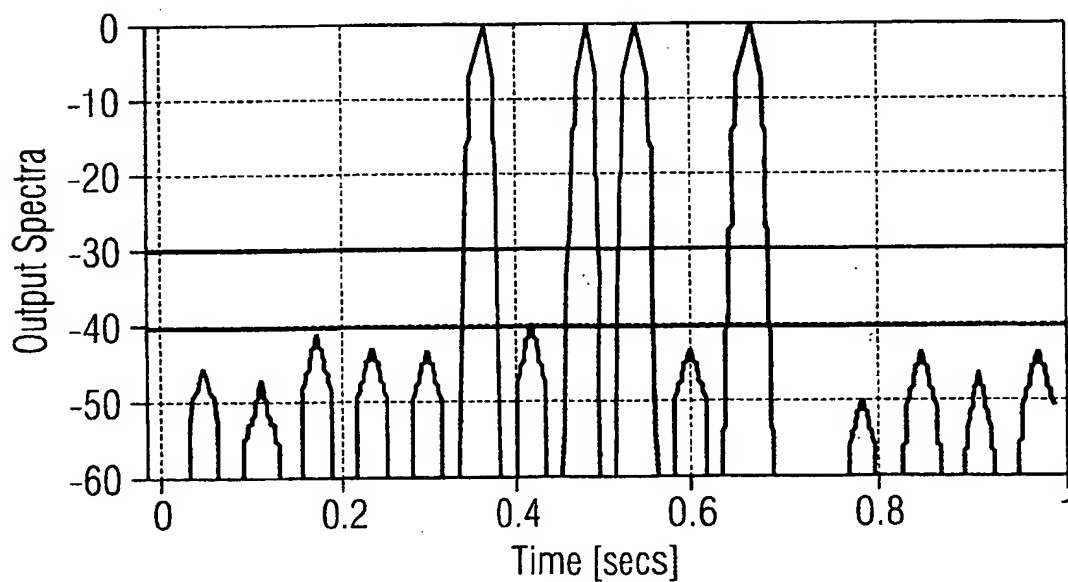


FIG 13



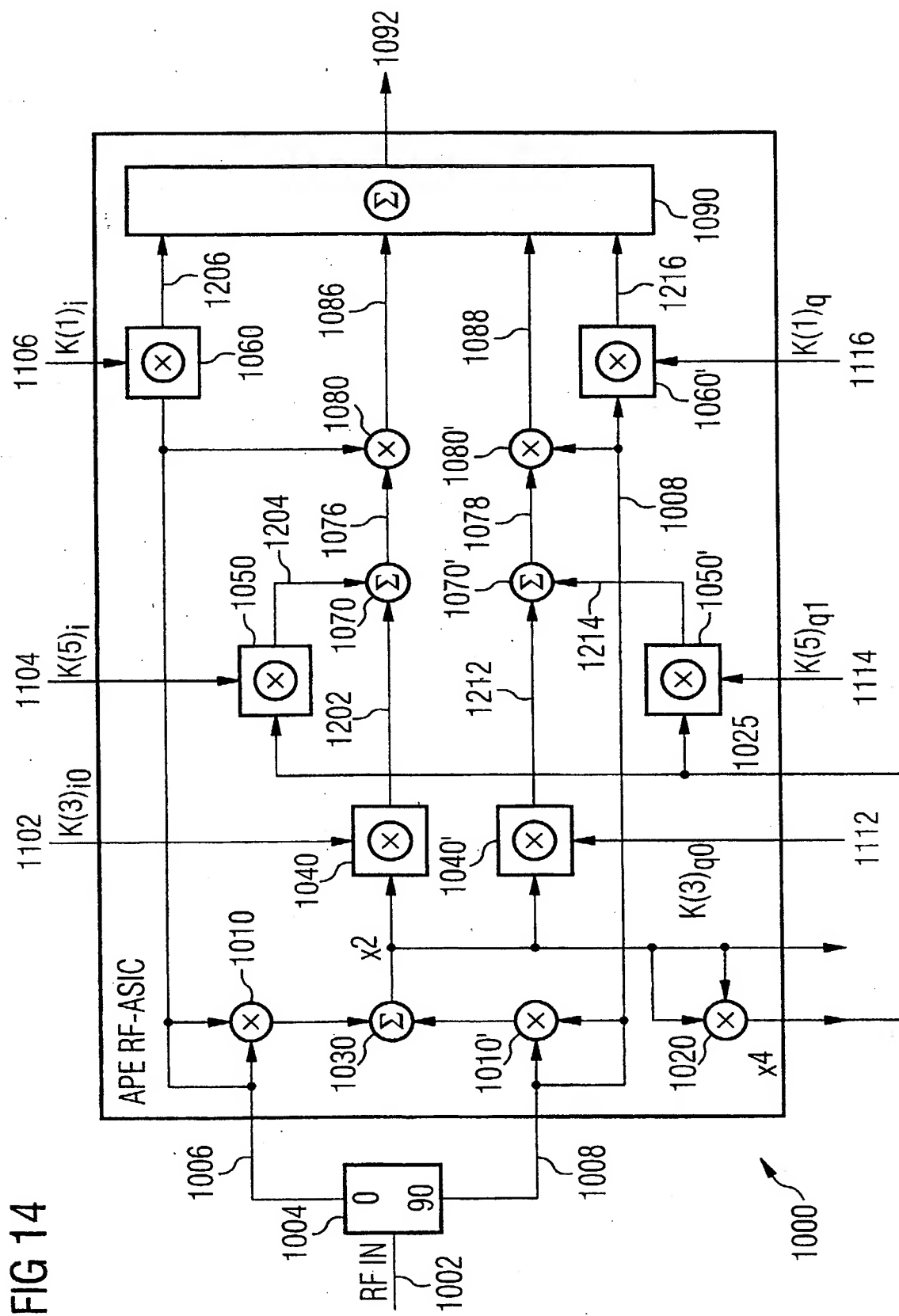


FIG 15

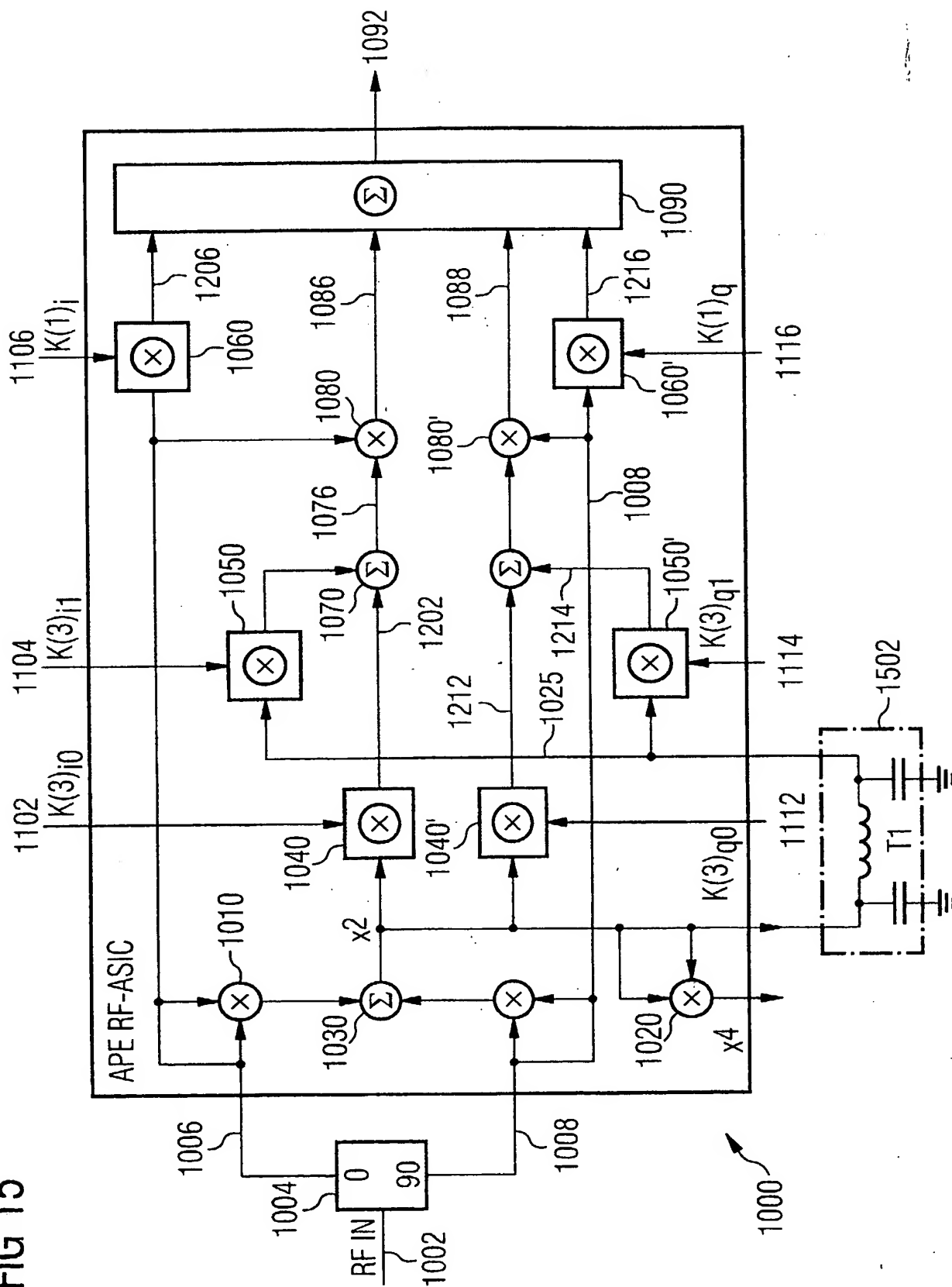


FIG 16

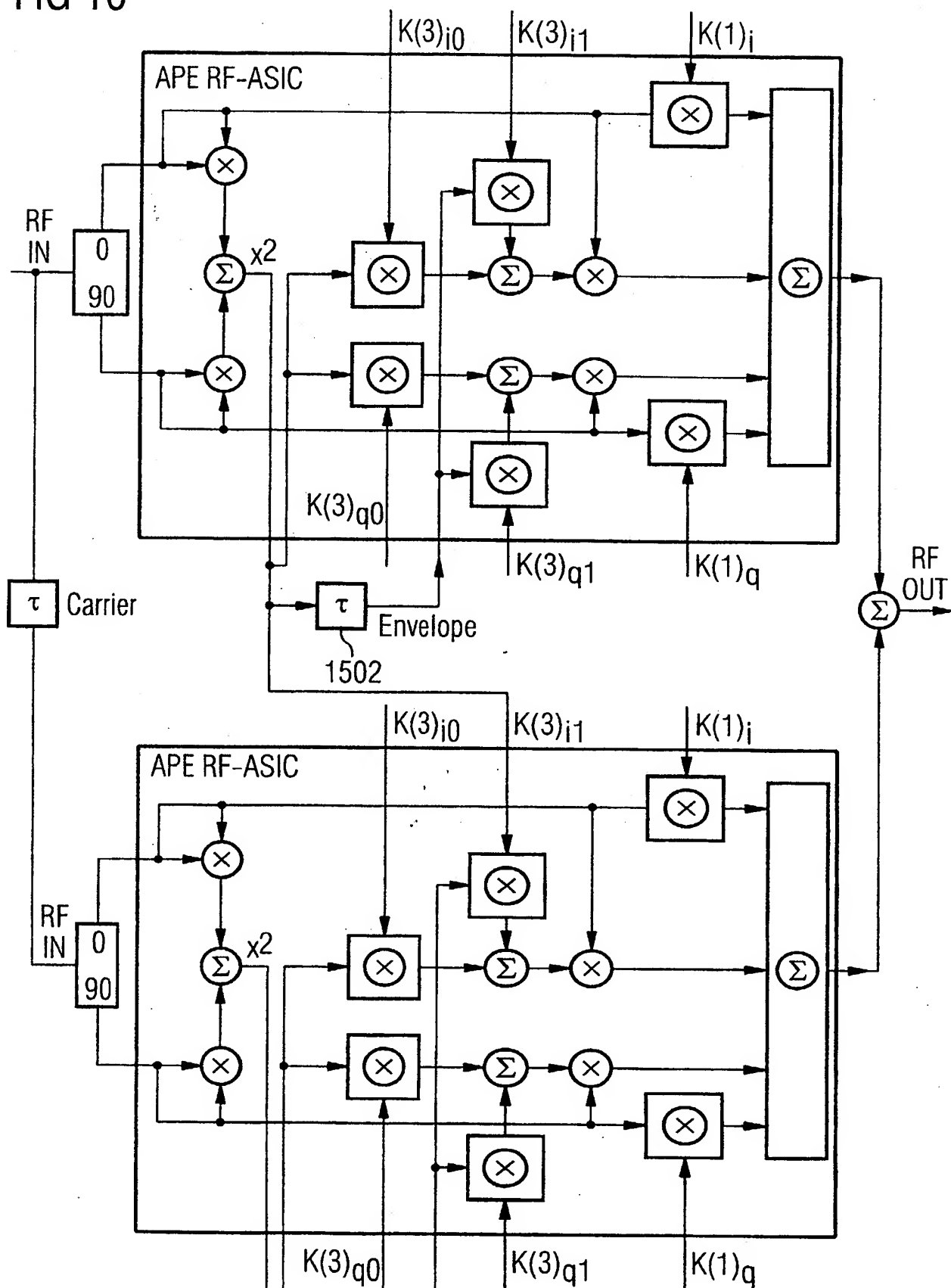
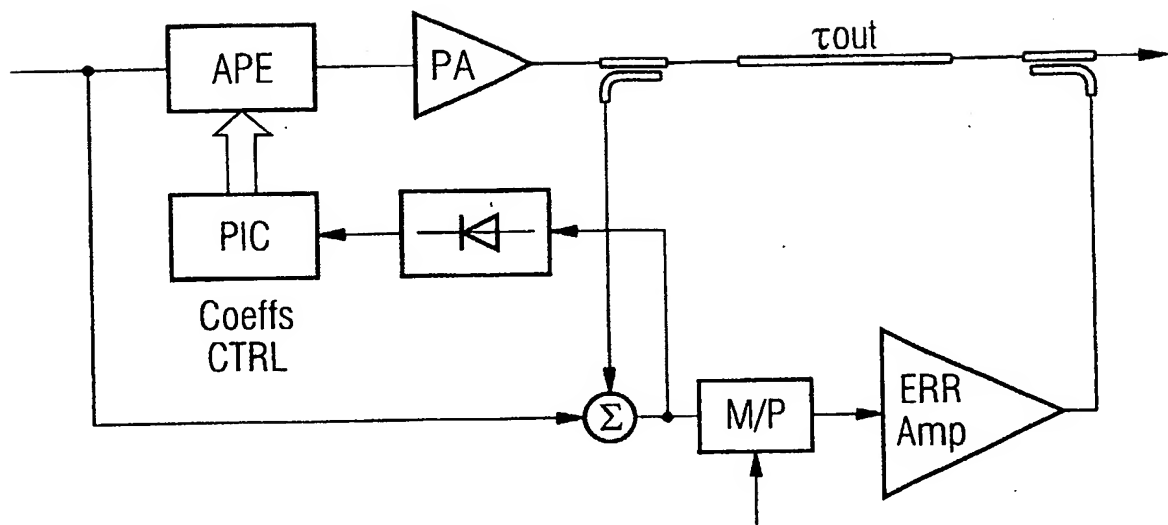


FIG 17



IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO POWER AMPLIFIERS

The present invention relates to improvements in or relating to power amplifiers. In particular, the invention relates to improving the efficiency of power amplifiers in the base station apparatus of radio telecommunications systems.

In radio telecommunications systems, high power base stations are used to establish connections to a plurality of mobile units (handsets). The new 2.5G and 3rd generation (3G) telecommunications systems, such as GPRS and UMTS, demand certain features in the base stations. Notably 2.5G and 3G systems require the base stations to use high power amplifiers.

Power amplifiers (PA) are used in both base stations and mobile handsets to amplify input signals. In much of the following discussions the examples of input signals are simple two-tone signals having tones at two distinct frequencies, f_1 and f_2 . Input signals amplified by PAs are more generally multicarrier signals.

The PAs used in base stations must be robust at high power levels. Substantially linear transfer characteristics are considered important to the provision of robust high power amplifiers (HPA).

An ideal linear amplifier would give an amplified version of an input signal, which at every point in its operating range has been amplified by a constant factor.

One result of the use of non-ideal power amplifiers can be the appearance of intolerable levels of side band distortion.

Distortion in PAs may be both amplitude distortion and phase distortion. An amplifier may cause an amplitude modulation to phase modulation (AM/PM) transfer characteristic, whereby phase variations in

the output amplified signal are dependent upon amplitude variations in the input signal. Distortion may also be purely or partly AM/AM in nature.

Distortion is a consequence of physical factors, including changes in the operational characteristics of the PA, temperature variations, power supply fluctuations and load mis-matches.

In the absence of PAs with perfect linear transfer characteristics, some non-linear distortion effects are to be expected. Distortion effects can appear as specious signals having frequencies which are generally in simple arithmetic selection as input frequencies; for example harmonic distortion and intermodulation distortions (IMD).

Intermodulation and harmonic distortions are important classes of effects generally termed "mixing products".

For the purposes of the following discussion, intermodulation distortion (IMD) products can be characterised in terms of their origins.

The "order" of a mixing product, f , is given by the sum:

$$O(f) = |m| + |n| + \dots + |z|$$

$$\text{where } f = mf_1 + nf_2 + \dots + zf_i$$

Thus the third harmonic of f_1 , $3f_1$, is of order three; so too is the IMD product ($2f_1 - f_2$). A short hand for 3rd order intermodulation distortion product, IM3, will be adopted hereafter.

In the high power amplified generally used in broadband radio frequency (RF) communications systems, the present of IMD is highly unwelcome. Amplification of the multicarrier signals of 2.5G and 3G systems leads to a plethora of IMD products as each channel can potentially mix with every other channel.

In response to non-linear transfer characteristics in PAs, it is known to seek to compensate for non-linearities. The apparatus for compensating for non-linear transfer characteristics is variously termed 'predistorter',

'linearizer' and 'equaliser'. The difference between terms is one of emphasis: a predistorter being an apparatus for applying a predistortion that seeks to complement any distortion introduced by the component of a PA.

5 'linearizer' emphasis the need to bring the combine linearizer and PA arrangement as close as possible to an ideal linear PA.

All compensating apparatus share the feature that they seek to apply a compensating function to counter the distorting effects of PAs. The compensating function may be viewed as an approximation to the inverse or complimentary function to the non-linear transfer function associated
10 with the PA.

The inverse function can be modelled in a variety of ways. In one example an arrangement of diodes is provided, the arrangement approximating the inverse of the distortion effects in the PA. In further examples software is used to emulate the effect of hardware predistortion
15 devices in real time.

Both the non-linear transfer function and the complementary predistortion function may be approximated by polynomial expansions. Polynomial predistortion is known.

It is further remarked that compensating apparatus is generally
20 implemented within either a feed-forward or a feed-back circuit arrangement.

Adaptive predistortion has been shown to be an essential technique for reducing the peak error power, and hence improving the efficiency of feed-forward amplifiers. Known polynomial predistorters, such as the
25 predistorter disclosed in UK patent application number GB 0123494.7 (attorney docket number 2001P09343), are unfortunately not effective for frequency dependent non-linear distortion where memory is required.

In the following discussion, the term memory refers to the dispersion of a signal through components which results in the delay of the signal.

When a PA displays memory effects, at least a component of the non-linear transfer characteristics will depend significantly upon previous signals passing through the PA. Consequently, the predistorter used to
5 compensate for the memory effects must have memory too.

Furthermore, from recent research it has been realised that the dependency of IM3 products on both carrier frequency and envelope frequency can be significant. The dependency of the IM3 products upon
10 envelope frequency is generally stronger.

In the case of envelope frequency dependency, the strength of the response can be damped. A compensating apparatus must therefore be provided with means to compensate for envelope frequency dependence and potentially memory effects too.

15 It is therefore an object of the invention to obviate or at least mitigate the aforementioned problems.

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a compensating apparatus for compensating for intermodulation products, the apparatus comprising: a phase splitting unit, which splits an
20 input RF signal into an in-phase component and a quadrature component; first multiplying units, which square the value of the in-phase component and the quadrature component respectively and sum the squared values to generate an X^2 signal; combining units, which combine the X^2 signal, the in-phase and quadrature components, and an external signal with respective
25 predistorting coefficients; and an adder, which generates a predistorted RF signal from the output of the combining units.

The compensating apparatus may be provided upon an application specific integrated circuit.

An output carrying the X^2 signal may be coupled to a delay unit (T1) and the output of the delay unit is fed back into the apparatus as the external signal, so that the external signal is a delayed signal derived from the X^2 signal.

5 Alternatively the apparatus may further comprise a further multiplier, which squares the X^2 signal again to give a X^4 signal, wherein the external signal is the X^4 signal.

By cascading more than one instance of the compensating apparatus, both carrier frequency and envelope frequency dependent effects due to
10 IM3 products may be compensated for substantially simultaneously.

In a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a hybrid compensating apparatus for substantially simultaneously compensating for both carrier frequency and envelope frequency dependent effects due to IM3 products, the hybrid apparatus comprising: a first compensating
15 apparatus coupled to a delay unit and arranged to compensate for envelope frequency effects; a second compensating apparatus, arranged to compensate for carrier frequency effects; a carrier delay unit, which imposes a predetermined delay upon the RF input signal supplied to the second compensating apparatus; and a further adder which sums the
20 outputs of the first and second compensating apparatuses.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention there is provided a feed forward amplifier arrangement comprising: a compensating apparatus as above; an amplifier having non-linear transfer characteristics that distort signals amplified thereby, the amplifier being coupled to the
25 output of the compensating apparatus; a controller which generates coefficients for feeding into the compensating apparatus; and a sampling means which samples an output signal from the amplifier and which feeds the sample back to the controller.

In accordance with a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of compensating for intermodulation products, the method comprising: splitting an input RF signal into an in-phase component and a quadrature component; squaring the in-phase component and the quadrature component respectively and summing their squares to generate an X^2 signal; combining the X^2 signal, the in-phase and quadrature components, and an external signal with respective predistorting coefficients; and generating a predistorted RF signal.

The compensating apparatus may also be referred to hereafter as an adaptive polynomial equaliser (APE). As will be understood, the APE is a modified polynomial predistorter and is able to compensate for envelope and carrier frequency dependent effects even when the transfer characteristics of the PA include memory effects.

The following discussion also delineates an architecture for a radio frequency application specific integrated circuit (RF-ASIC) predistorter. The proposed APE implements a predistortion technique that is re-configurable for narrowband and broadband applications. As such, the proposed APE improves efficiency and bandwidth of feed forward amplifiers.

A further benefit of the APE is to reduce substantially the error amplifier size thereby significantly reducing costly output filter delays.

For a better understanding of the present invention, reference will now be made, by way of example only, to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 shows IM3 products as measured on a first PA device, Device A;

Figure 2 shows IM3 products as measured on a second PA device, Device B;

Figure 3 shows a model for PA linear transfer function;

Figure 4 shows a model for carrier frequency dependent non-linearity in PA;

Figure 5 shows a model for envelope frequency dependent non-linearity in PA;

Figure 6 shows an overall transfer function of the PA;

Figure 7 shows a simulation set-up;

Figure 8 shows a block diagram of a predistorter configured for Device A;

Figure 9 shows Error Power improvement for Device A;

Figure 10 shows spectral improvement for Device A;

Figure 11 shows a block diagram of an equaliser configured for Device B;

Figure 12 shows Error Power reduction for Device B;

Figure 13 shows spectral improvements for Device B;

Figure 14 shows an APE RF-ASIC device configured as a 5th order predistorter;

Figure 15 shows an APE RF-ASIC device configured for envelope frequency (3rd order) compensation;

Figure 16 shows an arrangement of APE RF-ASIC devices suitable for performing envelope and carrier frequency equalisation; and

Figure 17 shows a block diagram of an implementation of an APE in a feed forward loop.

To illustrate the types of memory effects which prior art predistorters find problematic, the results of non-linear memory measurements are disclosed and a simulation model is derived (see Figures 1 to 7). Block diagrams and architectural drawings of configurations and applications of the predistorter of the present invention are shown in Figures 8 to 17.

The non-linear memory is manifested by variation of IM3 side band levels and side band symmetry over the frequency range. The levels are dependent on the envelope frequency, and the carrier frequency. The significance of memory effects is well known.

5 There are many examples of linear amplifier devices which may be adopted in base stations. For the purposes of the following discussion two known devices are considered: Device A and Device B. Both devices have been tested for two-tone inter-modulation over carrier and envelope frequency. The test results are shown in Figures 1 (Device A) and 2
10 (Device B).

In Device A, the IM3 products are shown to have a slight dependence on carrier frequency. The envelope dependency is stronger; there is a resonance at $dF=10\text{MHz}$.

15 In the case of Device B, the IM3 products are not dependent on carrier frequency. The envelope dependency is very small between 2110MHz to 2160MHz, but there is a strong resonance at the band edge ($dF=25\text{-}30\text{MHz}$).

20 It is important to note that in both devices, the 5th order distortion is 8-10dB below the 3rd order products. This indicates that the higher order terms could be neglected at the drive levels at which the measurements of Figure 1 and Figure 2 were taken.

25 In the case of practical power amplifiers (PA), the carrier frequency dependent 3rd order non-linearity and the envelope frequency dependent 3rd order non-linearity dominates the transfer function. This is confirmed by measurements such as the studies of Devices A and B described above, which indicate that the 5th and higher order terms are generally 8-10dB below the 3rd order products for a PA that operates at 20-30% efficiency.

In order to understand the behaviour of practical PAs it has been considered useful to develop a general model of these devices. Power amplifiers with memory can be modelled using Volterra series. Volterra series are considered particularly appropriate when non-linear effects are weak but not insignificant.

M. Schetzen describes the Volterra series and its application for non-linear systems in detail in "Volterra and Wiener Theories of Non-linear System", Schetzen, M. (1980) John Wiley & Sons, [ISBN 0-471-04455-5].

The general expression for a $2p-1$ order model is given by the equation 1:

$$y_n = \sum_{i_1=0}^{M-1} h_{i_1}^{(1)} x_{n-i_1} + \sum_{i_1=0}^{M-1} \sum_{i_2=0}^{M-1} \sum_{i_3=0}^{M-1} h_{i_1, i_2, i_3}^{(3)} x_{n-i_1} x_{n-i_2} x_{n-i_3}^* + \sum_{i_1=0}^{M-1} \dots \sum_{i_{2p-1}=0}^{M-1} h_{i_1, \dots, i_{2p-1}}^{(2p-1)} x_{n-i_1} \dots x_{n-i_p} x_{n-i_{p+1}}^* \dots x_{n-i_{2p-1}}^*$$

To represent the carrier frequency effects, the indices i_1 , i_2 and i_3 in equation 1 are set as follows:

i_1	i_2	i_3
0	0	0
1	0	0
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
$M-1$	0	0

For the envelope frequency dependent term, the indices are set as follows:

i_1	i_2	i_3
0	0	0
0	1	1
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
0	$M-1$	$M-1$

Using the reduced set of indices, equation 1 can be truncated to deal with three dominant effects: 1) Linear transfer function, 2) 3rd order carrier frequency dependent transfer function and 3) 3rd order envelope frequency

dependent transfer function. The truncation gives a simplified model as set out in equation 2:

$$y_n = \sum_{i_1=0}^{M-1} h_{i_1}^{(1)} x_{n-i_1} + |x_n|^2 \sum_{i_2=0}^{M-1} h_{i_2}^{(3cw)} x_{n-i_2} + x_n \sum_{i_3=0}^{M-1} h_{i_3}^{(3env)} |x_{n-i_3}|^2$$

A simplified model of PA behaviour based on equation 2 has been implemented. The block diagrams for each term of the equation are shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5 respectively. Figure 6 shows the block diagram generated to simulate the overall transfer function of the power amplifier.

For simplicity, the impulse response for each term is implemented by single delay element that forms a two-tap FIR (finite impulse response) structure. Such a simple structure can produce a slope or a single curvature in an output signal which is adequate to represent the measured response of devices such as Device A or Device B (Figures 1 and 2).

It should be noted that all coefficients in the above discussion of equations 1 and 2 are complex coefficients. This means that both AM/AM and AM/PM effects can be modelled (AM being amplitude modulation, PM being phase modulation). However, measurements made on spectral density only (using a spectrum analyser), do not allow the AM and the PM sidebands to be distinguished.

The block diagrams in Figures 3 to 6 seek to model the behaviour of known PA devices. The coefficients in Figures 3, 4 and 5 were set to produce a ripple similar in magnitude to that of measured values the device to be modelled: for Device A and Device B, the ripple produced is similar to that in Figure 1 and Figure 2 respectively.

For example, the model of Device A has a linear ripple of +/-0.25 dB (not shown on Figure 1), the CW (carrier wave) dependent sidebands varied between -34dBc to -36dBc and the envelope dependent sidebands

varied between -32dBc to -36dBc . Throughout, the notation dBc denotes the dB measured relative to the carrier signal amplitude.

Where no carrier frequency dependency is evident in a device for modelling, e.g. Device B, the linear ripple and the carrier frequency
 5 dependent variation are set to zero. The model of Device B does however allow the envelope dependent IM3 sidebands to vary between -25dBc to -35dBc .

It should further be noted that the high level of -25dBc envelope dependent sidebands only occurs at the band edges. In practice, this
 10 resonance can be moved out of band and thereby avoided. However, in order to confirm the feasibility of an adaptive polynomial equaliser, the simulation allowed for variations of the order measured for Device B.

The purpose of the simulation was: firstly, to confirm that the simplified Volterra model, which was derived from the two-tone
 15 measurements, is also valid for the general multi-carrier case; but also to estimate the achievable Peak Error power Ratio (PER) for Device A and for Device B respectively. The estimation of achievable PER being made both using a polynomial predistorter, without memory, and using an adaptive polynomial equaliser, which gives predistortion with memory.

20 The simulation set-up is shown in Figure 7. The PA distortion block 702 is based on the simplified Volterra model as illustrated in Figures 3 to 6.

Under the simulation, the signal source comprises four equal CW tones; the frequencies are set to excite a variety of IM3 products. The
 25 simulated test case represents a typical multi-carrier scenario.

The Error block 704 calculates the difference between the reference 712 and the output signal 714. This calculation bears some similarity to a

signal cancellation loop in a feed forward circuit. The error signal 716 is plotted relative to the Peak Envelope Power of the reference signal.

The model operates in continuous and gated modes for observing the spectra and the time domain waveforms respectively.

The properties of the PA models are summarised in Table 1 below. The model of Device A (shown in Figure 8) simulates a weak memory case. On the other hand the model of Device B (shown in Figure 11) requires stronger memory simulation.

Model Name	Device A	Device B
Linear response ripple	+/-0.25dB	0dB
Carrier Dependent IM3 levels	Min. -36dBc Max. -34dBc	-35dBc +/-0dB
Envelope Dependent IM3 levels	Min -36dBc Max -32dBc	Min -35dBc Max -25dBc

Table 1

The predistorter block 710 in Figure 7 is reconfigured to compensate for each respective PA distorter block 702. Thus the predistorter in Figure 8 corresponds to the model of Device A and similarly the predistorter in Figure 11 corresponds to the model of Device B.

It will be noted that the Device A predistorter in Figure 8 does not have any delay elements and cannot therefore compensate for memory. However, as has been noted earlier, Device A does have a relatively small sideband ripple.

The error signal 716 from the system with Device A is shown in Figure 9. The Peak Error Ratio improves by 7dB (i.e. from -28dBc to -35dBc). The spectrum of the output signal 714 is shown in Figure 10. Here too improvement can be observed.

In terms of the expected performance in a Feed Forward Loop, at 80W PEP, the Peak Error Power is only 25mW. The Error amplifier needs to deliver only 250mW peak when used with a 10dB output coupler.

It is interesting point out that the 5th order coefficients of Figure 8 are set to zero. In further research, it has been found that these terms could not reduce the peak error any further, so these terms are not essential in the RF-ASIC implementation.

The polynomial predistorter model (Figure 8) performed very poorly when applied to the Device B model. Only 1dB PER improvement was achieved. Given the strong memory component included in the Device B model, this poor performance was expected. In order to achieve better cancellation, an adaptive polynomial equaliser which includes delay (memory) is required.

The required equaliser comprises essentially the same building blocks as the predistorter of Figure 8. However, as may be seen from the block diagram in Figure 11, a delay element (T1) is now added and the multipliers are re-configured to produce two sets of IM3 products (instead of a single 3rd order term and a 5th order term).

As remarked above a simple arrangement with two taps is able to generate a slope or a curvature. Here the two-tap FIR structure is used to equalise the envelope dependent transfer function of the power amplifier. The achievable improvement using the predistorter of Fig. 11 with the Device B model is shown by Figures 12 and 13.

The equaliser reduced the Peak Error Power to -37dBc. For the purposes of the simulation, this was achieved by manually adjusting the coefficients for minimum Peak Error Power. In the real system, the same task can be performed adaptively using a minimum PEP search algorithm.

In terms of the simulated performance in a Feed Forward Loop, at 86W PEP, the Peak Error Power is now only 20mW. The Error amplifier needs to deliver only 200mW peak when used with a 10dB output coupler.

It should be noted, that the improvement of 14dB illustrated in Figure 12 can not be guaranteed in anything other than special cases: the simple PA model produced a smooth curve instead of the sharp ripple as shown on Figure 2. For accurate realisation of the distortion (and for its inverse) a larger number of taps will be required, corresponding to a longer delay (memory).

Accurate realisation of the distortion may be achieved with digital predistortion. On the other hand, there is no benefit from more than 10dB improvement because the 5th and higher order terms are present at 8-10dB below anyway.

In one embodiment of the present invention, an apparatus for compensating for the IMD products generated in PAs is provided. The compensating apparatus is configurable in accordance with the transfer characteristics of the PA for which it compensates. Thus the compensating apparatus can be configured to emulate the models in both Figures 8 and 11. In the Figure 8 configuration, the compensating apparatus

As remarked earlier, one preferred embodiment of the compensating apparatus is as an RF-ASIC, also referred to as an APE.

It has been realised that the block diagram in Figure 11 and the block diagram in Figure 8 can be constructed using the same RF-ASIC components. Each block diagram can be emulated as a special case (see Figure 14 and 15 respectively).

The APE provides predistortion and equalisation in Feed Forward loops. The benefits of this solution are summarised as follows:

Firstly the predistortion, improves both the efficiency and the spectral purity of the main amplifier.

Secondly, the non-linear equalisation can adapt to the frequency-variant compression characteristics of the main amplifier.

5 Thirdly, the error power is reduced; smaller error amplifier is required which has larger bandwidth and smaller electrical delay and delay ripple.

Finally, very short output matching delay is needed, hence the output loss is lower, and the cancellation is better. The filter delay line may be
10 replaced with low cost coax or a printed track.

A further advantage of the present invention is that the same RF-ASIC can be configured either as a 5th order predistorter or as a 3rd order non-linear equaliser.

The structure of one implementation of the APE RF-ASIC can be
15 described with reference to either of Figures 14 or 15, the same reference numerals are used in both Figures for like components. An RF signal 1002 is phase-split into an in-phase 1006 and a quadrature component 1008. (I and Q) by a phase-splitter 1004. The two components 1006,1008 are input into respective multipliers 1010,1010'. Each multiplier squares the
20 amplitude value for the corresponding component and the squared amplitudes are summed at an adder 1030 to give an X^2 signal. The X^2 signal itself is fed to a further multiplier 1020 where the X^2 value is squared again to give a X^4 signal.

Consider now the treatment of the in-phase component 1006 only. A
25 symmetrical treatment is given to the quadrature phase component 1008. Three combiners 1040,1050,1060 are provided each suitable for combining an RF signal with a corresponding coefficient provided by a controller device (not shown). The first of these combiners 1040 takes a first

coefficient 1102 and the X^2 signal as input and generates a first combined signal 1202. The second combiner 1050 takes a second coefficient 1104 and an external signal 1025 as input and generates a second combined signal 1204. The first and second combined signals 1202,1204 are added
 5 by an adder 1070 to give a sum 1076. The sum 1076 and the in-phase component 1006 are input into a multiplier 1080: the result being a first summand 1086.

The in-phase component 1006 is also input into the third combiner 1060 where it is combined with a third coefficient 1106. The output of the
 10 third combiner 1060 is a second summand 1206. The symmetrical quadrature path results in two further summands 1088, 1216. All four summands are summed in an adder 1090. The output of the adder 1090 is a predistorted signal 1092. Provided the input coefficients are appropriate to a given PA, the predistorted signal 1092 should be compensated for at least
 15 some of the dominant mixing products in the PA transfer characteristics.

For completeness the quadrature path is also described. There are three more combiners 1040',1050',1060', each suitable for combining an RF signal with a corresponding coefficient provided by a controller device (not shown). The fourth combiner 1040' takes a first coefficient 1112 and
 20 the X^2 signal as input and generates a fourth combined signal 1212. The fifth combiner 1050' takes a second coefficient 1114 and the external signal 1025 as input and generates a fifth combined signal 1214. The fourth and fifth combined signals 1212,1214 are added by an adder 1070' to give a sum 1078. The sum 1078 and the quadrature component 1008 are
 25 input into a multiplier 1080: the result being the third summand 1088.

The quadrature component 1008 is also input into the sixth combiner 1060' where it is combined with a sixth coefficient 1116. The output of the sixth combiner 1060' is the fourth summand 1216.

In the examples of configurations of the RF-ASIC, the first and fourth coefficients 1102,1112 are 3rd order coefficients $K^{(3)}_{x1}$. Likewise the third and sixth coefficients 1106,1116 are 1st order coefficients $K^{(1)}_x$.

The RF-ASIC is thus, with little rearrangement, configurable as
 5 either a 5th order polynomial predistorter, in which case the external signal 1025 is the X^4 signal generated at the multiplier 1020, or a 3rd order equaliser, in which case the external signal 1025 is the X^2 signal delayed by an external circuit 1502. The second and fifth coefficients 1104,1114 supplied to the second and fifth combiners 1050,1050' are 5th order $K^{(5)}_x$ or
 10 3rd order $K^{(3)}_{x1}$ respectively.

Note that the X^2 and X^4 signals are taken off-chip and the X^4 signal is routed back in the Figure 14 arrangement.

For narrowband applications (BW 5MHz to 20MHz), the dispersion of the non-linearity in the PA over frequency may be negligible. In this
 15 case, it is advantageous to configure the RF-ASIC as a 5th order polynomial predistorter. This configuration is shown in Figure 14.

For wider bandwidth applications (BW= 30MHz-100MHz), the compression characteristics of the main amplifier may vary over frequency. In these cases, better cancellation is achieved by configuring the RF-ASIC
 20 for 3rd order equalisation of the transfer function. This arrangement is shown in Figure 15.

This arrangement implements the envelope-dependent term in equation 2 described above and is equivalent to the model in Figure 11. T1 delay is realised by an external LC circuit 1502 in this example.

25 It should be noted, that two or more APE RF-ASIC circuits can be cascaded to realise more complicated impulse responses. It is also possible to include carrier frequency dependent terms in the RF-ASIC.

In a further embodiment of the present invention, two RF-ASIC blocks are arranged to compensate for both envelope and carrier frequency effects. An illustration of such a configuration is shown in Figure 16.

5 In yet another embodiment of the present invention, an APE is incorporated in a feed forward loop. This embodiment is illustrated is shown in Figure 17.

The error signal is detected and applied to a microcontroller (PIC). The search algorithm (e.g. perturbation loop) may be coded into the PIC, which also includes all the necessary ADC/DAC converters.

10 The APE also fulfils the functionality of the vector modulator in the cancellation loop. This is accomplished by the complex K_1 coefficient.

It has been shown that memory effects are generally weak in well-designed power amplifiers. The carrier frequency dependent terms can usually be neglected. The APE predistorter can compensate for the
15 envelope frequency dependent terms, if necessary.

The APE technique improves both the bandwidth and the efficiency of feed forward amplifiers whilst also reducing the costs of hardware. The APE is a key technique for the implementing multi-carrier power amplifier that simultaneously covers the full RF DCS/PCS/FDD bandwidths.

CLAIMS:

1. A compensating apparatus for compensating for intermodulation products, the apparatus comprising:

a phase splitting unit, which splits an input RF signal into an in-phase component and a quadrature component;

first multiplying units, which square the value of the in-phase component and the quadrature component respectively and sum the squared values to generate an X^2 signal;

combining units, which combine the X^2 signal, the in-phase and quadrature components, and an external signal with respective predistorting coefficients; and

an adder, which generates a predistorted RF signal from the output of the combining units.

2. A compensating apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the apparatus is an application specific integrated circuit.

3. A compensating apparatus as claimed in Claim 2, wherein an output carrying the X^2 signal is coupled to a delay unit (T1) and the output of the delay unit is fed back into the apparatus as the external signal, whereby the external signal is a delayed signal derived from the X^2 signal.

4. A compensating apparatus as claimed in Claim 2, the apparatus comprising a further multiplier, which squares the X^2 signal again to give a X^4 signal, wherein the external signal is the X^4 signal.

5. A hybrid compensating apparatus for substantially simultaneously compensating for both carrier frequency and envelope frequency dependent effects due to IM3 products, the hybrid apparatus comprising:

a first compensating apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, arranged to compensate for envelope frequency effects;

a second compensating apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, arranged to compensate for carrier frequency effects;

a carrier delay unit, which imposes a predetermined delay upon the RF input signal supplied to the second compensating apparatus; and

a further adder which sums the outputs of the first and second compensating apparatuses.

6. A feed forward amplifier arrangement comprising:

a compensating apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding claims;

an amplifier having non-linear transfer characteristics that distort signals amplified thereby, the amplifier being coupled to the output of the compensating apparatus;

a controller which generates coefficients for feeding into the compensating apparatus; and

a sampling means which samples an output signal from the amplifier and which feeds the sample back to the controller.

7. A method of compensating for intermodulation products, the method comprising:

splitting an input RF signal into an in-phase component and a quadrature component;

squaring the in-phase component and the quadrature component respectively and summing their squares to generate an X^2 signal;
combining the X^2 signal, the in-phase and quadrature components, and an external signal with respective predistorting coefficients; and
generating a predistorted RF signal.

8. A method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the external signal is a delayed signal derived from the X^2 signal.
9. A method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the method further comprises squaring the X^2 signal to generate a X^4 signal and wherein the external signal is the X^4 signal.
10. A compensating apparatus as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 8 to 17 of the accompanying drawings.



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Application No: GB 0209106.4
Claims searched: 1-10

Examiner: Keith Sylvan
Date of search: 3 October 2002

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:
UK Cl (Ed.T): H3W (WULPR, WULCC, WULFS)
Int Cl (Ed.7): H03F (1/32)
Other:

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	US5105446 A Alcatel. See figures 8 and 9.	

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

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